From the Editors

Almost all audiologists rely on prescriptive gain or output targets when fitting hearing aids. Differences in ear size and geometry, as well as hearing aid fitting decisions such as venting, can dramatically impact the hearing aid output in the individual listener's ears. Thus, there is little argument that the verification of these targets and the validation that the fitted hearing aid is operating as intended are necessary for an appropriate and optimal fitting. Real-ear measures via probe microphone or functional gain have been repeatedly advocated for the verification of hearing aid fittings.

The relative importance of these two methods has recently been debated. That is, which of these measures is appropriate, or are they both appropriate? Do the measures serve the same purpose, or different purposes? Due to the recent advancements in hearing aid signal-processing technology, the argument over the use of functional gain and real-ear gain has become even more hotly debated. The validity of such measures (are we really measuring the "actual" gain of the hearing aid?) with advanced hearing aids is a concern among clinicians.

In this issue of *Trends in Amplification*, we have brought together two very prominent researchers in the area of hearing aid fitting and verification to present their viewpoints on functional gain and real-ear gain in light of the latest technological advancements. The issue is in two sections: Francis Kuk, PhD, presents his views in the first section, and David Fabry, PhD, presents his views in the second.

Dr. Kuk is currently the Director of Audiological Services, Widex Hearing Aid Company. He received his undergraduate education from Miami University in Ohio and his graduate education from the University of Iowa. Prior to joining Widex, he was on the faculty of the University of Iowa and the University of Illinois, and later he worked as the Director of Audiological Services at Phonak Hearing Systems. Dr. Kuk has published several peer-reviewed papers on various aspects of hearing aid technology, fitting, and verification. In addition to his research publications, Dr. Kuk has presented several papers and seminars at national and international meetings. He has served on several professional committees of the Hearing Instrument Manufacturers' Software Association (HIMSA), the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and the Hearing Industry Association (HIA). Dr. Kuk also serves on the editorial board of several peer-reviewed journals in his area of expertise.

Dr. Fabry is currently the Director of Clinical Research at Phonak Hearing Systems. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from University of Minnesota. Prior to his current appointment, he worked at the Mayo Clinic in various capacities, including an assistant and associate professor of audiology and as the section head of audiology. Dr. Fabry has published several peer-reviewed papers on various aspects of hearing aid technology, fitting, and verification. In addition to his research publications, he is a frequent speaker on his areas of expertise at various national and international meetings. Dr. Fabry is also an active member of the audiology community in the role of the past president of the American Academy of Audiology, and as a member of the American Academy of Audiology Board of Directors. He also serves on the editorial committees of several peer-reviewed journals.

We hope the readership of *Trends in Amplification* will enjoy the viewpoints presented by our two prominent authors. We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce our newly expanded editorial board. With the addition of King Chung and Ayaskanta Rout as senior editors, as well as other planned changes, we hope to continually improve *Trends in Amplification* for the readership.

King Chung, Todd Ricketts,
and Ayaskanta Rout
Editorial Board